

[Records of the Past]

Project 1655

Phoebe Faucette

Hampton County, S. C. No. 7

Approximately 312 words RECORDS OF THE PAST

Tall, and erect, and in comparative good state of health, Mr. Peeples is bearing his years well. His vigor of speech, humor, and interest in life draw many a one to his side. His conversations are such that they are readily remembered.

"You know," he said, when approached as to the olden times, "there was only Beaufort and Barnwell Districts in this section then. The countyseat of Beaufort District was at Gillisonville. The records were burned there during the Civil War, except for some that had been taken to Columbia. They were saved.

"I remember my father who was always known as 'Capt'n Hill', telling us about the experience he had when captain of a company during the Reconstruction Period [./?] His company had aided in a skirmish around Augusta. He was arrested, and would have been brought to trial at Charleston had he not answered as he did when questioned.

"'Sir, are you not captain of a company?' he was asked.

"'I am president of a Democratic Club', he answered. 'And my men will do anything I tell them to!'

Library of Congress

“He had two companies. One was a Negro company. That is how the country was brought back into sound government. There was nothing illegal in the forming of a club. A military command in opposition to the existing government would have been illegal.

“I remember going to Gillisonville and visiting old General Moore. I spent the night there one time. There was a man who lived there that would go to Savannah; but when he came back he'd be so drunk he'd forget to get off the boat and go on to Columbia. He'd go back to Savannah with the boat, and then back to Columbia. Sometimes he'd make several trips with the boat until he sobered enough to know where to get off.”

SOURCE: Interview with Mr. Charles Laughlin Peeples, Sr., (White).

[80?] Years Old. Estill, S. C.